

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 INT-05 /067 W

----- 065274

R 070728Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4717

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF, LT

SUBJECT: VIOLENCE AT TWO NATAL COAL MINES

REF: DURBAN 84 (NOTAL)

1. AS RESULT OF COAL MINE DISTURBANCES REPORTED REFTEL, ABOUT 650 MINERS HAVE RETURNED HOME TO LESOTHO, APPROXIMATELY 300 FROM HLOBANE.

2. SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS RECEIVED HERE STATE ALL LESOTHO MINERS RETURNED HOME AT THEIR OWN REQUEST. LESOTHO RADIO REPORTS STATE MINERS WERE ORDERED HOME. LOCAL OFFICE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ORGANIZATION THAT RECRUITS FOR AFFECTED MINES CONCEDES THAT SOME RETURNED MINERS ARE SAYING THEY DID NOT WISH TO LEAVE MINES BUT GENERALLY SUPPORTS HEAD OFFICE POSITION THAT LESOTHO MINERS ASKED TO BE SENT HOME.

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3. LESOTHO'S LABOR COMMISSIONER REPORTS THAT LESOTHO
MINERS AT NORTHFIELD MINE WERE SENT HOME AGAINST THEIR WILL,
WHEREAS THOSE FROM HLOBANE ASKED TO COME HOME.

4. WITH RESPECT TO IMMEDIATE CAUSES OF FACTION FIGHTING,
IT UNDERSTOOD HERE THAT XHOSAS ATTACKED FIRST AT NORTHFIELD.
LABOR COMMISSIONER SAYS THIS CONFIRMED BY MINE MANAGEMENT.
COMMISSIONER SAYS IMMEDIATE CAUSES AT HLOBANE CONSIDERED
"MYSTERIOUS". LESOTHO HAS REPRESENTATIVE ON SCENE FROM ITS
JOHANNESBURG LABOR OFFICE.

5. OF 31 DEAD IN FACTION FIGHTS, COMMISSIONER REPORTS 11 FROM
LESOTHO, ZULU, AND REMAINDER PRESUMED TO BE XHOSA.

6. COMMENT: CONSIDER IT LIKELY THAT SOME MINERS FROM LESOTHO
REPATRIATED AGAINST THEIR WILL. THIS FITS IN WITH ANNOUNCED PLANS
BY SOME GOLD MINE OWNERS TO REPATRIATE ESTABLISHED OR POTENTIAL
TROUBLEMAKERS.

HAUGHT

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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